

HOUSE No. 2589

By Mr. Eldridge of Acton, petition of David Paul Linsky and others for legislation to provide tax credits for attorneys involved in the practice of public interest law. Revenue.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

David Paul Linsky	David M. Torrissi
Richard T. Moore	Kevin G. Honan
Steven M. Walsh	Alice Hanlon Peisch
Cory Atkins	

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT TO ENCOURAGE LAWYERS TO PRACTICE PUBLIC INTEREST LAW.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 6 of chapter 62 of the General Laws, as
2 appearing in the 2002 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 inserting after subsection (k) the following subsection:—
4 (1) A graduate of an accredited Massachusetts law school who
5 is practicing public interest law shall be allowed a credit equal to
6 the amount of money that the graduate is paying for law school
7 loans; provided, however that the graduate is actually practicing
8 public interest law, as determined by the public service commis-
9 sion, and provided further that the amount of the credit shall never
10 exceed the gross amount of law school tuition.

1 SECTION 2. There is hereby established a public service com-
2 mission. The purpose of the commission shall be to evaluate and
3 categorize public legal services and to determine which legal
4 service are provided directly to clients for the purposes of the tax
5 credits enumerated in section 1. Types of such services shall
6 include but not be limited to, legal services corporations, public

7 defenders offices, district attorneys' offices, attorney general's
8 offices and employment with other 501(c)(3) non-profit organiza-
9 tions. The commission shall be responsible for making determina-
10 tions as to the validity of the public legal services offered. The
11 commission shall also conduct a study to encourage participation
12 in public law services and furnish a study which will recommend
13 tuition reimbursement programs to reduce law school loans. The
14 commission shall be composed of the attorney general, who shall
15 chair the commission, one representative appointed by the gov-
16 ernor, the chair of the committee for public counsel or his
17 designee, one representative appointed by the president of the
18 senate and one representative appointed by the speaker of the
19 house and one representative appointed by the chief administra-
20 tive justice of the trial court. The commission shall file its report
21 with the clerks of the house and senate by March 31, 2006.